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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— At a recent meeting of the Anthropological Institute of London, Gen. Pitts Rivers read a paper on the discovery of flint implements in the gravel of the Nile valley, near Thebes. The worked flints were found imbedded two or three meters deep in stratified gravel. From this it appears that the evidence of human workmanship has been found in gravel deposits which had become so indurated that the ancient Egyptians were able to cut flat-topped tombs in it, supported by square pillars of gravel, which have retained their form uninjured to the present day, proving an enormously greater age for the flints imbedded in the gravel, some of which were chiseled out of the sides of the tombs.

— Apropos of the sittings of the Concord School of Philosophers, the same newspaper reports the proceedings of a "chinch-bug convention" in Kansas. It was stoutly maintained by the Philosophers of the Granger School, that chinch-bugs had long been an infliction to farmers; but no one called them such names as one or two of the Concord philosophers bandy about; and we should much prefer being a chinch-bug, luxuriating in the open air, than like a venerable transcendentalist's "soul," to be pent up as if a mere *Cysticercus* in some one's "occiput."

— Two eminent botanists have recently died: Dr. L. Rabenhorst, of Meissen (Saxony) was a well-known botanist and editor of *Hedwigia*. Among his numerous works was one on the fresh-water diatoms of Germany. Dr. M. J. Schleiden, a prolific writer, and author of "Die Planze" and "Das Meer," died at Frankfort, aged 77 years.

— The fresh-water jelly fish (*Limnocoedium*) has reappeared in the Victoria Regia tank in the Botanical Gardens. Another writer in *Nature* speaks of sea anemones (*Actinia*) as living and flourishing in a fresh-water aquarium; no particulars are given as to the length of time, etc.

— The first part of a fourth edition of Griffith and Henfrey's *Micrographic Dictionary* has appeared. It is expected to be completed in twenty-one monthly parts.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF ILLINOIS, June 12.—According to programme the members met at the Palmer House, where several new names were added to the list and some other business was transacted, among which was the organization of the entomologists into a separate section, with C. E. Worthington as president and G. H. French, secretary. The meeting in Chicago numbered about thirty, somewhat smaller than the Ottawa meeting, but that may be accounted for, perhaps, by the fact that the proposed place for the field meeting did not afford so good an opportunity for geologists, and hence they were out in smaller numbers.

On the morning of the 13th the society went by the Mich. Southern R. R., to Whittings, Ind., and from there about a mile and a half to the grounds of the Lake George Sporting Association, the proposed place of rendezvous. This is a tract of wild land containing two or more lakes, low meadow and marsh lands and ridges of timber, in all several thousand acres. A few miles out from here is a belt of pines, the whole giving an exceedingly rich and varied flora and fauna in which all kinds of scientific specialists might find something of interest. The departments of natural history were represented in the field during the week by the following persons:

Geology—Tyler McWhorter, Aledo; L. E. Evans, Streator; Edgar L. Larkin, New Windsor.

Ornithology—J. L. Skelton, Chicago; B. P. Colton, Princeton; Geo. S. White, Lake View.

Ichthyology—Professor S. A. Forbes, Normal; W. H. Garman, Normal; Professor Joshua Lindahl, Rock Island; Frank L. Rice, Evanston; N. S. Davis, Jr., Evanston. The two last also collected Crustacea.

Entomology—C. E. Worthington, Chicago; G. H. French, Carbondale; Dr. E. H. Boardman, Elmira; F. M. Webster, Waterman; W. H. Bridges, Elgin; H. Darlington, Chicago; H. A. Peters, Rock Island. Dr. Boardman and Mr. Bridges worked part of the time in botany.

Botany—Professor E. J. Hill, Englewood; Professor T. J. Burrill, Champaign; Cyrus Kehr, Sterling; Ewing Summers, Chicago; W. J. Stevens, Morris.

There were a number of others at the Chicago meeting, the above list including only those who went out to Lake George.

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SELECTED ARTICLES IN SCIENTIFIC SERIALS.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SCIENCE, August.—Geological relations of the limestone belts of Westchester county, New York; Origin of the rocks of the Cortlandt series, by J. D. Dana. Nature of Dictyophyton, by R. P. Whitfield.

NATURE, June 2.—A chapter in the history of the Coniferæ. The Cupressineæ.

June 16.—Dr. Miklucho Maclay's Anthropological and Anatomical researches in Melanesia and Australia.

July 7.—Civilization and barbarism in South Africa.

July 14.—British Museum Catalogue of Birds.

GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE, July.—Two new British Carboniferous insects, by S. H. Scudder. On Vogt's View of the Archæopteryx, by H. G. Seeley. Sudden extinction of the Mammoth, by H. H. Howorth. The Vertebrata of the Forest Bed series of the east of England, by E. T. Newton. Correlation of the Lower Palæozoic rocks of Britain and Scandinavia, by C. Lapworth.